



As frustration mounts, a White House push on voting rights

By JONATHAN LEMIRE, ZEKE MILLER and ASHRAF KHALIL
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Facing a call to “save American democracy,” the Biden administration has unveiled new efforts to protect access to the ballot amid rising complaints from civil rights activists and other Democrats that the White House hasn’t done enough to counter Republican-led state legislatures attempting to narrow voting procedures. President Joe Biden met with civil rights leaders Thursday in the West Wing, while Vice President Kamala Harris announced \$25 million in new spending by the Democratic National Committee on actions to protect voting access ahead of the 2022 midterm elections. Biden and his team stress ongoing legal efforts to safeguard voting rights. They’ve also promised a major legislative push after Senate Republicans blocked a sweeping election overhaul last month. The president has told reporters he plans on “speaking extensively” on voting rights and that he would be “going on the road on this issue.” Friday, the White House announced that Biden would travel to Philadelphia on Tuesday to discuss “actions to protect the sacred, constitutional right to vote.” White House press secretary Jen Psaki said the president will “go to the birthplace of democracy to make the case for the moral imperative of making voting more accessible to people across the country.”

Continued on Page 2



Marc Morial, center, President and Chief Executive Officer of the National Urban League, talks with reporters outside the West Wing of the White House in Washington, Thursday, July 8, 2021, following a meeting with President Joe Biden and leadership of top civil rights organizations.

Associated Press

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT 7 DAYS A WEEK

SUNDAY:	MONDAY:	TUESDAY:	WEDNESDAY:	THURSDAY:	FRIDAY:	SATURDAY:
TICO KOCK STEEL DRUM 4 - 6pm	ANGELA FLORES VIOLINIST 6:30 - 8:30pm	JEAN PAUL SAXOPHONIST 6:30 - 8:30pm	PAULA RIDERSTAP SINGER 6:30 - 8:30pm	RICKY THOMAS GUITAR 7 - 9pm	RICKY THOMAS GUITAR 7 - 9pm	ANGELA FLORES VIOLINIST 6:30 - 8:30pm

PAULA RIDERSTAP
SINGER
6:30 - 8:30pm

Happy Hour
12 - 1 / 4 - 6 / 9 - 10

PREMIUM BRANDS

KARAOKE HAPPY HOUR
9:00 - 11:00pm

Tel +297 583 8000 Ext. 8150 | Reservations at wateredge-aruba.com | Elegant dining, spectacular ocean views enjoyed al fresco or in air conditioned comfort | Located at Costa Linda Beach Resort

'Take the best memory of Aruba marked on your body'

Bikini made by hand and with adhesive tape

Natural Brazilian Perfect Tan

ARUBA
Happy Lashes

PERFECT TAN

Lash Extensions. Classic or Russian Volume

ARUBA HAPPY LASHES | BUSHIRI 6V

FOR APPOINTMENT PLEASE CALL 738-8889

Do it Center
Bo Familia Pa Semper!

Weekly SPECIALS

SAVE \$2.85

\$25.08
Per KG

Fresh Veal Cuts small

SAVE \$4.56

\$4.56
Per Bag

Nectarine 2lb

SAVE \$0.91

\$3.42
Each

Starbucks Assorted Coffee 220ml

SAVE \$11.42

\$39.99
Each

Baileys Irish Cream Espresso 1L

*Offer is valid from 09 - 15 July 2021 and while supplies last. All prices are in US dollars (\$)



Radisson BLU
ARUBA

EXPLORE ARUBA'S NEWEST ROOFTOP RESTAURANT
SUNSET BISTRO
WITH THE BEST SUNSET VIEWS ON THE ISLAND

SERVING BREAKFAST, LUNCH AND DINNER
Open daily starting from 7:00AM

@radissonbluaruba

J.E. Irausquin Blvd. 97-A, Palm Beach | 526 5000 | concierge@radissonbluaruba.com

As frustration mounts, a White House push on voting rights

Continued from Front

There has been growing frustration among those in Biden's own party who view GOP actions on voting as an existential threat to both Democrats and democracy.

Pressure only mounted after a Supreme Court decision limited the ability of minorities to challenge state laws that Democrats say are discriminatory under the Voting Rights Act. Biden has brought in outside advocates for meetings at the White House and has consulted advisers on the best strategy for combating new laws.

"We will not leave any stone unturned to save American democracy," said Marc Morial, head of the National Urban League, as he stood with the Rev. Al Sharpton and other civil rights leaders after Thursday's meeting. "This is an attack on a very fundamental value that undergirds this country. When we look at what's happening in this nation, we see an effort to impose a system, American apartheid."

During the meeting, Biden and Harris assured the civil rights leaders that they would push Congress to pass voting legislation, while doing everything within the administration's power to secure full voter participation in elections, according to a White House summary. This Thursday's speech from Harris, tasked with leading the administration's response to voting issues, was expected to be the first from her in a series.



Vice President Kamala Harris speaks about voting rights at Howard University in Washington, Thursday, July 8, 2021.

"This campaign is grounded in the firm belief that everyone's vote matters — that your vote matters," Harris said. "We want to help to make sure your vote is counted, and that is because our democracy is strongest when everyone participates."

Several states enacted new voting laws, and others are debating them, after Republicans seized on former President Donald Trump's false claim of massive voter fraud in the 2020 election as a pretext for passing new legislation curtailing ballot access.

Democrats have grown nervous that the new laws could suppress turnout for next year's midterm elections when the party is trying to hold on to very narrow margins in both chambers of Congress.

"Folks, it is never too early to defend your rights," Harris said. "With these new laws that have been passed, or they're trying to, we have to start now to finish strong." But some Democrats and voting rights activists believe that the White House did not start nearly soon enough. "Our backs are against the wall. This is the moment. We have no more time," said Sherrilyn Ifill, president of the NAACP Legal Defense Fund. "I told the president: We will not be able to litigate our way out of this threat to Black citizenship."

"We must have the president use his voice," Ifill said. Democrats on Capitol Hill already tried to respond with a sweeping voting and elections bill. But Senate Republicans united to block it. Most Repub-

licans have similarly dismissed a separate bill, the John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act, which would restore sections of the Voting Rights Act that the Supreme Court previously weakened.

The stalemate has increased focus on the Senate filibuster, which, if left in place, would seem an insurmountable obstacle to sweeping voting bills in Congress. With Republicans unanimous in their opposition, it would take the elimination or modification of the filibuster for two bills still on the table to have a chance at passage. Moderate Democrats like Sen. Joe Manchin of West Virginia and Sen. Kyrsten Sinema of Arizona so far have expressed reluctance to change Senate rules that protect the filibuster.

Although not abandoning hope for a legislative breakthrough, the West Wing has been shifting focus to other measures to protect the vote, including legal action by the Department of Justice and in individual states, according to the officials. There also will be an emphasis on boosting voter turnout, with aides pointing to the successes Democrats had in getting out votes last year during the height of the pandemic. Biden believes "that voting is a fundamental right for the American people," said White House press secretary Jen Psaki this week. "He is going to use every lever at his disposal to advocate for that."

Officials concede, though, that turning out voters is always harder in a nonpresidential election year. Some frustrated aides, seeing the impasse in the Senate, believe too much focus has been placed on federal legislative measures. They think that civic and business groups can also play a role in fighting the voting restrictions, noting that an outcry in Georgia helped water down some of the GOP's proposed plans.

The Supreme Court's 6-3 ruling last week upheld voting limits in Arizona that a lower court had found discriminatory under the federal Voting Rights Act. It was the high court's second major decision in eight years that civil rights groups and liberal dissenting justices say weakened the civil rights-era law intended to eradicate discrimination in voting. □

Loan relief approved for more for-profit college students

By COLLIN BINKLEY
AP Education Writer

The U.S. Education Department on Friday announced it will forgive student loans for more than 1,800 borrowers who attended a trio of for-profit colleges that made false recruiting claims and left many students unable to find jobs. The Biden administration is erasing more than \$55 million in debt for former students of Westwood College, the Marinello Schools of Beauty and the Court Reporting Institute. All three chains have been closed for years after facing accusations of fraud and deception in their advertising. It is another step in the Education Department's effort to clear a backlog of claims in the borrower defense program, which offers loan forgiveness to students who were defrauded by their schools. Applications piled up when the Trump administration stalled the program while it rewrote the rules, leaving a current backlog of more than 100,000 pending claims. "The department will continue doing its part to review and approve borrower defense claims quickly and fairly so that borrowers receive the relief that they need and deserve," Education Secretary Miguel Cardona said in a statement.



In this March 17, 2021, file photo, Education Secretary Miguel Cardona speaks during a press briefing at the White House in Washington.

He added that the new round of approvals should "serve as a warning to any institution engaging in similar conduct that this type of misrepresentation is unacceptable." Most of the newly approved claims are for former students of Westwood College, which had campuses across the country before its closure in 2015. The chain told students their course could be transferred to other colleges, but that often was not the case, the Education Department said. It left many students stuck starting their college

careers all over again after they transferred. The company also made false claims about a criminal justice program in Illinois, saying graduates could get jobs as police officers in the Chicago area, the department said. But many police agencies didn't accept credits from Westwood, leaving many graduates to accept minimum wage jobs in other fields. About 200 of the loan discharges are for the Marinello Schools of Beauty, which closed in 2016 after the federal government cut off its funding. The col-

lege had a history of failing to deliver the education it promised, the department said, in some cases leaving students without instructors for months. As a result, some cosmetology students never learned key skills like how to cut hair, and many had difficulty passing state licensing tests. The department approved 18 claims from the Court Reporting Institute, which had locations in Washington, California and Idaho before shutting down in 2006. The college was found to have lied about the amount of time required

to complete its training to become a court reporter. Only about 6% of students actually ended up graduating, the department found, and those who did took much longer than the college said it would. Last month, the Biden administration erased student debt for more than 18,000 borrowers of the ITT Technical Institute, another defunct for-profit college. And in March, it cleared \$1 billion in debt for former students of ITT and the Corinthian Colleges chain. In total, the administration has granted claims totaling \$1.5 billion for nearly 92,000 borrowers. The borrower defense program is among several targeted for an overhaul by the Biden administration as it seeks to undo Trump-era policies. Former Education Secretary Betsy DeVos issued new rules meant to scale back loan forgiveness, which she said had become too easy to obtain. DeVos also implemented a new formula that offered only partial loan relief even if claims were granted. Cardona rescinded that formula in March and said all borrowers granted relief would get their loans erased in full. The department held a hearing on the topic last month as it considers changing the rules. □

Associated Press

U.S. stops jailing pregnant migrants, reversing Trump policy

By BEN FOX
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — U.S. immigration authorities will no longer routinely jail migrants facing deportation if they are pregnant or recently gave birth, reversing a Trump-era immigration policy. The new directive, announced Friday, does not bar Immigration and Customs Enforcement from initiating proceedings to deport women who are pregnant, nursing or have given birth within the past year. But they generally would no longer be detained

pending the outcome of their cases except under "exceptional circumstances," the agency said. The practice of detaining pregnant migrants has been condemned as a threat to maternal and fetal health by immigrant and women's advocacy groups critical of medical care at detention centers. "This reflects our commitment to treat all individuals with respect and dignity while still enforcing our nation's laws," acting ICE Director Tae Johnson said. The change is part of a broader effort by the Biden

administration to roll back Trump-era enforcement measures and return to policies resembling those in place under President Barack Obama. ICE recently adopted draft guidelines to focus apprehensions on people in the United States illegally who recently entered the country, pose a national security threat or have committed serious crimes. While these efforts have angered immigration opponents, the number of people in immigration custody has risen sharply in recent months. There are



In this March 30, 2021, file photo Mayra Culio from Guatemala is helped off an inflatable raft by a church volunteer after being smuggled across the Rio Grande river in Roma, Texas.

Associated Press

more than 27,000 people in ICE custody, up from less than 14,000 at the end of March, according to data

compiled by the Transactional Research Access Clearinghouse at Syracuse University. □

California forest closed as wildfires burn, heat returns

BECKWOURTH, Calif. (AP)

— Flames threatening campgrounds and cabins prompted evacuations and closed off a swath of Northern California forest as the state headed into another weekend of dry, scorching weather and the continuing threat of wildfires.

Hundreds of firefighters aided by aircraft were fighting the Beckwourth Complex, two blazes sparked by lightning that were carving their way through the eastern edge of the million-acre Plumas National Forest in the northern Sierra Nevada near the Nevada state line. Campgrounds and homes around Frenchman Lake were under evacuation orders Friday and a nearly 200-square-mile (518-square-kilometer) area of the forest was closed because of the danger, fire information officer Pandora Valle said.

After a day and night of explosive growth, the fire covered more than 38 square miles (98 square kilometers) at midmorning Friday, causing containment to drop to 11%.

The flames were burning through pine, fir and chaparral turned bone-dry by low humidity and high temperatures, while ridgetop winds and afternoon gusts of up to 35 mph were “really pushing” the flames at



Firefighters monitor the Sugar Fire, part of the Beckwourth Complex Fire, as it burns at Frenchman Lake in Plumas National Forest, Calif., on Thursday, July 8, 2021.

Associated Press

times, Valle said.

The fire was one of several burning in the north, where several other large blazes destroyed dozens of homes in recent days.

In the region between the Oregon border and the northern end of the Central Valley, the big Lava and Tennant fires were significantly contained, and progress was reported at the Salt Fire as containment improved to 45%. The Salt Fire has burned 27 homes and 14 outbuildings north of Redding, which hit 100 degrees (37.7 Celsius) before 11 a.m. The Lava Fire

destroyed 20 structures, including 13 homes, and damaged two structures. The Tennant Fire destroyed five buildings, including two homes.

In north-central Arizona, increased humidity slowed a big wildfire that posed a threat to the rural community of Crown King. The 24.5-square-mile (63.5-square-kilometer) lightning-caused fire in Yavapai County was 29% contained. Recent rains allowed five national forests and state land managers to lift public-access closures.

Climate change is considered a “key driver” of a trend that is creating “longer and more intense dry seasons that increase moisture stress on vegetation and make forests more susceptible to severe wildfire,” the agency said recently. Fire crew officials will be briefing the community on progress Friday evening at the Chiloquin Community Center. The meeting will be streamed on the Facebook page for the Fremont-Winema National Forest beginning at 7 p.m.

In Oregon, pushed by strong winds, a wildfire fire

in Klamath County grew from nearly 26 square miles (67 sq. km.) Thursday to nearly 61 square miles (158 sq. km.) on Friday in the Fremont-Winema National Forest and on private land. It was 0% contained, according to the an update posted on Facebook by the incident management team. Klamath County Emergency Management on Friday issued an immediate evacuation order for people in certain areas north of Beatty and near Sprague River.

In Idaho, Gov. Brad Little declared a wildfire emergency in the state Friday and mobilized the Idaho National Guard to help fight fires that had sparked across the state after lightning storms swept across the drought-stricken region. Fire crews in north-central Idaho were facing extreme fire conditions and gusty winds as they fought two wildfires that threatened homes and forced evacuations in the remote and tiny community of Dixie about 40 miles southeast of Grangeville. Efforts were complicated in part because firefighting resources were stretched thin, fire managers said, and in part because the area has very challenging terrain covered with trees and plants that are dry from the ongoing drought. □

Victims of California synagogue shooting can sue gunmaker



In this Sunday, April 28, 2019 file photo, a San Diego county sheriff's deputy stands in front of the Chabad of Poway synagogue, in Poway, Calif.

Associated Press

SAN DIEGO (AP) — A California judge decided victims of the 2019 synagogue shooting near San Diego that killed one worshiper and wounded three can sue the manufacturer of the semiautomatic rifle and the gun shop that sold it to the teenage gunman, according to a newspaper report. Superior Court Judge Kenneth Medel said Wednesday that victims and families in the Poway, California, synagogue shooting have adequately alleged that Smith & Wesson, the nation's largest gunmaker, knew its AR-15-style rifle could be easily modified into a machine-gun-like or

an assault weapon in violation of state law. A 2005 federal law shields gunmakers from damages in most cases for crimes committed with their weapons. But it allows lawsuits if the manufacturer was negligent or knowingly violated a state or federal law, the San Francisco Chronicle reported Thursday. Medel said the plaintiffs may also be able to sue on their claims that Smith & Wesson negligently marketed the rifle to youths on social media and video game-style ads, the newspaper said. The judge also said the shop, San Diego Guns, could be sued for selling the weapon to John

Earnest, who was 19 and lacked a hunting license that would have exempted him from California's 21-year minimum age for owning long guns. Prosecutors say Earnest, a nursing student, opened fire with a semi-automatic rifle during the last day of Passover services in April 2019. The attack killed 60-year-old Lori Gilbert-Kaye and wounded three others, including an 8-year-old girl and the rabbi, who lost a finger. Earnest then allegedly called 911 to say he had shot up a synagogue because Jews were trying to “destroy all white people,” authorities said. □

Belarus scales up crackdown on independent media

By YURAS KARMANAU

Associated Press

VILNIUS, Lithuania (AP) —

Belarusian authorities have raided the offices of several media outlets and the homes of scores of journalists under a multi-pronged crackdown on dissent and free speech in the ex-Soviet nation, a media watchdog said Friday.

The Belarusian Association of Journalists, or BAJ, said the country's law enforcement agencies have conducted nearly 30 searches at media outlets and journalists' apartments and detained at least seven journalists in the past two days.

"A new wave of repression that is unprecedented in scope and cruelty has targeted the independent media," said BAJ leader Andrei Bastunets.

"The authorities arbitrarily designate any journalist as an extremist."

On Thursday, Belarusian authorities blocked the website of Nasha Niva, a leading independent online newspaper, raided its offices and detained its chief editor Yahor Martsinovich and several other staffers for questioning.



Belarus President Alexander Lukashenko attends meeting with members of Belarus National Olympic team ahead of Summer Olympics Games in Tokyo, Minsk, Belarus, Friday, July 9, 2021.

Associated Press

Agents of the Belarusian state security agency, which still goes under its Soviet-era name, KGB, also conducted searches at several regional media outlets and detained several journalists.

The crackdown continued Friday, with KGB officers raiding the apartments of

Nasta Zanko, a journalist of the independent Onliner.by news outlet in Minsk and journalists Andrey Kukharichy and Maksim Khlyabets in Brest, on the border with Poland.

They also searched the apartment of journalist Tanya Smotkina in the town of Glubokoye in Belarus'

north, and the offices of Informprogulka and Media-Polesye media outlets in Luninets and a local newspaper in Hantsevlachi in the country's west.

Overall, 32 Belarusian journalists are currently in custody, either serving their sentences or awaiting trial, the Belarusian Association

of Journalists said.

Konstantin Bychek, a deputy head of the KGB's investigative department, said the raids and arrests were part of a broad sweep against "radical-minded individuals."

Bychek alleged that those targeted are suspected of involvement in helping to stage "mass disturbances and even acts of terrorism." The independent media and journalists targeted in the crackdown have covered months of protests against Belarus' authoritarian President Alexander Lukashenko, which were triggered by his reelection to a sixth term in an August 2020 vote that was widely seen as rigged.

The authorities responded to demonstrations with a massive crackdown that saw more than 35,000 people arrested and thousands beaten by police. Leading opposition figures have been either jailed or forced to leave the country.

The European Union and the United States have responded to the crackdown by slapping Belarus with sanctions. □

Dutch court keeps suspects in custody over reporter shooting

By MOLLY QUELL

Associated Press

AMSTERDAM (AP) — Two

men suspected in the shooting of a celebrated Dutch crime reporter appeared in court Friday and were ordered to stay in custody for another two weeks, while doctors were

still fighting to save the journalist's life in an Amsterdam hospital.

Peter R. de Vries was shot in the head while walking to his car after a Tuesday night television appearance. The attack on de Vries, known for courageous reporting on the Dutch un-

derworld, raised concerns around Europe about journalists' safety and media freedom.

His condition has remained "unchanged" since the shooting, according to a statement from his family. A ceremony in de Vries' honor was held Friday afternoon at Amsterdam's Westerkerk church, which welcomed visitors to light candles and to observe a moment of silence. Some 4,000 white roses were heaped in his honor at the Nationaal Monument nearby, with a sign reading "Attack on Freedom of the Press."

Dutch police said the suspected shooter is a 21-year-old Dutchman, and a 35-year-old Polish man living in the Netherlands is accused of driving the getaway car.

They were arrested not long after de Vries was wounded.

Heavy security ringed the Amsterdam District Court for Friday's hearing. The court said in a statement that "there are currently sufficient objections and grounds to keep the two men in pre-trial detention." They were ordered held for another 14 days while the investigation continues.

No motive for the attack has been disclosed. "We are running through several scenarios and are working with all our might to find out what the role of the suspects is and who else might be responsible," said police spokesperson Sarah Tillart.

De Vries reported on the country's most infamous crimes, from the 1983 kidnapping of a Heineken

heir to his investigation into the 2005 murder of U.S. teenager Natalee Holloway while she was on holiday in the Dutch Caribbean island of Aruba.

Most recently, he had been serving as an adviser and confidant to a witness in a major trial of alleged drug kingpin Ridouan Taghi.

Taghi and 16 others are on trial over a series of murders, including the 2016 killing of a crime blogger who had reported on Taghi's alleged criminal activities. According to Dutch daily newspaper de Telegraaf, the 21-year-old suspect is the cousin of a member of Taghi's organization who is serving a 13-year prison term for orchestrating a series of assassination attempts against rival gang members. □



4,000 roses and a sign reading "Attack on the Freedom of Press", where put on Dam Square in support of attacked journalist Peter R. de Vries in Amsterdam, Netherlands, Friday, July 9, 2021.

Associated Press

Taliban say they now control 85% of Afghanistan's territory

By **DARIA LITVINOVA**

Associated Press

MOSCOW (AP) — The Taliban claimed on Friday that they now control 85% of Afghanistan's territory amid a surge in wins on the ground and as American troops complete their pullout from the war-battered country. The announcement came at a press conference at the end of a visit by a senior Taliban delegation to Moscow this week — a trip meant to offer assurances that the insurgents' quick gains in Afghanistan do not threaten Russia or its allies in Central Asia.

The claim, which is impossible to verify, was considerably higher than previous Taliban statements that more than a third of the country's 421 districts and district centers were in their control. There was no immediate response from the government in Kabul on the latest claim.

Earlier this week, Taliban advances forced hundreds of Afghan soldiers to flee across the border into Tajikistan, which hosts a Russian military base.

Tajikistan in turn called up 20,000 military reservists to strengthen its southern



From left, Mohammad Naim, Mawlawi Shahabuddin Dilawar and Suhil Shaheen, members of a political delegation from the Afghan Taliban's movement, attend a news conference in Moscow, Russia, Friday, July 9, 2021.

border with Afghanistan. Russian officials have expressed concern that the Taliban surge could destabilize the ex-Soviet Central Asian nations north of Afghanistan.

Since mid-April, when President Joe Biden announced the end to Afghanistan's "forever war," the Taliban have made strides throughout the country. They recently have swept through dozens of districts, taking control, often without a fight. Over the past week,

they seized border crossings with Tajikistan, Uzbekistan and on Thursday, with Iran.

However, at the Moscow presser, the Taliban promised not to attack provincial capitals or seize them by force, and expressed hopes for a "political resolution" with Kabul.

"We will not seize provincial capitals in order not to inflict death on Afghan citizen," said Taliban negotiator Mawlawi Shahabuddin Dilawar.

Guarantees for that have been presented to the Afghan authorities, along with demands for the release of more Taliban prisoners from Afghan jails, Dilawar said. He added that the Taliban now control 85% of Afghan territory.

The Taliban also vowed they would "not allow anyone, any individual, any entity to use the soil of Afghanistan against the neighboring country, regional country and world country, including the United States and

its allies." "We don't want to fight. We want to find a political resolution through political negotiations," said Taliban spokesman Mohammad Sohail Shaheen. The Taliban representatives spoke through a translator. Iranian media reported Friday that the Taliban were in control of two border crossings between Afghanistan and Iran, including the key transit route of Islam Qala seized on Thursday.

In southern Kandahar there was fighting on Friday near the provincial capital and the government had sent more troops to protect the prison there from attempts by the Taliban to attack it and free the inmates.

Moscow, which fought a 10-year war in Afghanistan that ended with Soviet troops' withdrawal in 1989, has made a diplomatic comeback as a mediator, reaching out to feuding Afghan factions as it has jockeyed with the U.S. for influence in the country.

It has hosted several rounds of talks on Afghanistan, most recently in March, that involved the Taliban — even though Russia has labeled them a terrorist organization. □

Associated Press

Chinese social media giant WeChat shuts LGBT accounts

By **FU TING**

Associated Press

BANGKOK (AP) — China's most popular social media service has deleted accounts on LGBT topics run by university students and nongovernment groups, prompting concern the ruling Communist Party is tightening control over gay and lesbian content. WeChat sent account holders a notice they violated rules but gave no details, according to the founder of an LGBT group, who asked not to be identified further out of fear of possible official retaliation. She said dozens of accounts were shut down, all at about 10 p.m. on Tuesday.

It wasn't clear whether the step was ordered by

Chinese authorities, but it comes as the ruling party tightens political controls and tries to silence groups that might criticize its rule. WeChat's operator, Ten-

cent Holding Ltd., confirmed it received an email seeking comment but didn't immediately respond.

The Communist Party de-

criminalized homosexuality in 1997, but gay, lesbian, bisexual, transsexual and other sexual minorities still face discrimination. While there is more public discussion of such issues, some LGBT activities have been blocked by authorities.

The official attitude is increasingly strict, the founder of the LGBT group said. Contents of the WeChat accounts, which included personal stories and photos of group events, were erased, according to the group's founder.

The former operator of a different group for university students, who asked not to be identified for fear of retaliation, called the step a devastating blow.

University officials asked students two months ago

to shut down LGBT social media groups or to avoid mentioning their school names, according to the LGBT group founder. She said universities in the eastern province of Jiangsu were told by officials to investigate groups for women's rights and sexual minorities to "maintain stability."

The U.S. said it was concerned the WeChat accounts had been deleted while merely expressing views and exercising freedom of speech. "We oppose the use of network restrictions to suppress freedom of expression online," whether in China or anywhere else, State Department spokesperson Ned Price told reporters in Washington. □



In this Aug. 7, 2020, file photo, icons for the smartphone app WeChat is seen on a smartphone screen in Beijing.

Associated Press

52 dead in Bangladesh factory fire as workers locked inside

By JULHAS ALAM

Associated Press

DHAKA, Bangladesh (AP) —

A fire engulfed a food and beverage factory outside Bangladesh's capital, killing at least 52 people, many of whom were trapped inside by an illegally locked door, fire officials said Friday.

The blaze began Thursday night at the five-story Hashem Foods Ltd. factory in Rupganj, just outside Dhaka, sending huge clouds of black smoke billowing into the sky. Police initially gave a toll of three dead, but then discovered piles of bodies on Friday afternoon after the fire was extinguished. So far 52 bodies have been recovered, but the top two floors of the factory have yet to be searched, said Debasish Bardhan, deputy director of the Fire Service and Civil Defense. He said the main exit of the factory was locked from the inside and many of those who died were trapped. Many workers jumped from the upper floors of the factory, and at least 26 suffered injuries, the United News of Bangladesh



Smoke rises from a food and beverage factory in Rupganj, outside Dhaka, Bangladesh, Friday, July 9, 2021.

agency reported.

Information about how many people were in the factory and how many were missing was not immediately available.

"For now, we only have these details. After searching the top floors we will be able to get a complete picture," Bardhan said.

Bangladesh has a tragic history of industrial disasters, including factories catching fire with the workers locked inside.

Continuing corruption and lax enforcement have resulted in many deaths over the years, and big international brands, which employ tens of thousands

of low-paid workers in Bangladesh, have come under heavy pressure to improve factory conditions after fires and other disasters killed thousands of people. The factory that caught fire Thursday was subsidiary of Sajeeb Group, a Bangladeshi company that produces juice under

Pakistan's Lahore-based Shezan International Ltd., said Kazi Abdur Rahman, the group's senior general manager for export.

Rahman told The Associated Press by phone that the company is fully compliant with international standards, but he was not certain whether the exit of the factory was locked. According to Bangladesh's factory laws, a factory cannot lock its exit when workers are inside during production hours.

As the recovery effort was carried out Friday, victims in white body bags were piled in a fleet of ambulances as relatives waited.

As the heavy smoke continued to rise from the still smoldering factory, weeping family members of missing workers waited anxiously for news of loved ones outside the charred site. Earlier, family members clashed with police as they waited overnight without any word of the fate of their loved ones.

The government ordered an investigation into the cause of the fire. □

Associated Press

Families of Beirut blast victims want officials prosecuted

By BASSEM MROUE

Associated Press

BEIRUT (AP) — Families of the victims of last year's massive blast at Beirut's port protested in the Lebanese capital on Friday to pressure parliament to lift immunity of three legisla-

tors. The judge investigating the explosion had requested such a step.

One of the protests took place near the residency of Parliament Speaker Nabih Berri, where the legislature's justice committee was meeting over the

immunity request.

Lebanese troops pushed the protesters back from the tightly secured building.

Many Lebanese blame the country's ruling elites for negligence that led to the port explosion.

"You blew up Beirut and put people in coffins," read a banner carried by one of the protesters.

According to the deputy parliament speaker, Elie Ferzli, the committee decided to first ask the judge to review the evidence against the three before deciding on the immunity. Last week, Judge Tarek Bitar announced he intends to pursue senior politicians and former and current security chiefs in the case, and requested permission for their prosecution. □



A Lebanese man who lost her son during the last year's massive blast at Beirut's seaport, shout slogans as he pushed back by a Lebanese army soldier after he tries with other to reach the tightly-secured residents of parliament speaker Nabih Berri, in Beirut, Lebanon, Friday, July 9, 2021.

Associated Press



infini
by Urvan Croes

Taste limitless possibilities at Infini, where Chef Urvan Croes and his team explores without boundaries and steps with both feet outside of the box to create his most sensational dishes yet. This meticulously designed restaurant located inside Blue Residences on scenic Eagle Beach is a chef's table concept with limited seating where diners are able to interact with the staff and other guests alike throughout the evening.

8 Courses You Will Never Forget



Reserve Your Seats
Dinner Awaits

+297 699 3982

www.infiniaruba.com

J.E. Irausquin Blvd 266

InfiniAruba

infiniaruba

LOCAL



The Monuments Fund Aruba receives loan from the National Restoration Fund Netherlands

ORANJESTAD — **Nationaal Restauratiefonds (National Restoration Fund Netherlands)** made 70 million euros available for monuments organizations that are normally open to public but were forced to close their doors due to Covid 19 which have led to losses in their sales.

Monuments Fund Aruba (SMFA) is a foundation that is not subsidized by the government and depends on the income from their

tenants. Due to the economic crises caused by the pandemic some of our tenants were forced to close their doors. This made it difficult for them to pay their rent. As a result of this SMFA has reduced the rent for these tenants who did not generate any income. For this reason, The Monuments Fund decided to apply for the loan NRF was offering to the monuments organizations. At first the loan was only offered for organizations in the Netherlands,

but after SMFA applied for a loan, NRF decided to put 750.000 euros available for the Dutch Caribbean Islands. At the end of June SMFA got the good news that the application was approved. It is a loan for a period of fifteen years at 1 % interest that the organizations must start to pay back in three years. The amount varies per organization. The Monuments Fund is very grateful for the cooperation of the NRF and for creating possibilities for the



organizations to surpass these difficult times. Thanks to this loan we can keep preserving our monuments for future generations. □

Okeanos Spa.
Aruba Aloe®.
Your Revitalizing Summer Special.



Take relaxation to revitalizing new heights with Okeanos Spa's Summer Special that folds genuine Aruba Aloe® into the incredible treatments featured below. Choose options from our Menu 22 selection to receive a gift card to Aruba Aloe®, samples from their mini-soap collection and a complimentary tour of Aruba Aloe® itself.




- o **22 facial - \$215 - 90 minutes**

This soothing treatment starts with a facial where collagen, azulene, and aloe are the main ingredients to create smooth, tight and oxygenated skin. The hand, feet, neck, shoulder and scalp massage will leave you totally renewed. Finish with an aloe manicure revealing rejuvenated hands.
- o **Take the Burn out - \$145 - 50 minutes**

Complete with aloe and calendula, this soothing facial helps to heal sunburns, using Azulene and Marine Collagen to rejuvenate your skin and bring it back to life. You will be out enjoying the beach again in no time.

• For reservations please call 523-6176 • RenaissanceArubaSpa.com •

Aruba to me...



You are back and we would like to portrait you! By inviting you to send us your favorite vacation picture while enjoying our Happy Island.

Complete the sentence: Aruba to me is Send your picture with that text (including your name and where you are from) to: news@arubatoday.com and we will publish your vacation memory. Isn't that a special way to keep your best moments alive? Please do note: By submitting photos, text or any other materials, you give permission to The Aruba Today Newspaper, Caribbean Speed Printers and any of its affiliated companies to use said materials, as well as names, likeness, etc. for promotional purposes without compensation.

Last but not least: check out our website, Instagram and Facebook page! Thank you for supporting our free newspaper, we strive to make you a happy reader every day again.

For today's newspaper we received a great picture from **Linda and Joseph Forlini** from Vancouver, WA.

They wrote:

"Aruba to me is...Quiet, Serene a place to relax. We honeymooned here 27 years ago and have been coming back ever since. The people are welcoming, the island makes you feel at home. We love our One Happy Home Away From Home." □

MONDAY MADNESS AND BINGO ARE TEMPORARILY SUSPENDED

Free Shirt Sunday!

Get a **FREE** Alhambra
T-Shirt when you earn
250 Slot Points on Sunday with
your **Players' Club card!**

THE SHOPS AT ALHAMBRA CASINO

Offering a wide variety of Retail & Dining Outlets,
Salon & Spa Services, Souvenirs and more.

Dunkin Donuts | Baskin Robbins | Subway

Hungry Piranha | Twist of Flavors

The Brownstone Ribs & Seafood

Alhambra
CASINO AND SHOPS

Open daily 10am to 4am | J.E. Irausquin Blvd #47 | 583.5000 | casinoalhambra.com

Play Responsibly. Visit www.gamblersanonymous.org if you or someone you know has a gambling problem.



Look fabulous and radiant with Aruba Happy Lashes

Noord – Discover Aruba Happy Lashes, a highly recommended and new concept on the island. The ideal place for the perfect beauty esthetic work offers manicures, pedicures, Brazilian tan, massages, sporty outfits, perfect eyelashes and so much more. Run by only professionals you are guaranteed of the best service for your money.

Aruba Happy Lashes gives you the opportunity to look spectacular during your vacation on the island of Aruba by offering you a perfect natural Brazilian Tan. Prepare your body with a tan that will make you the talk of the



town. This Brazilian technique is developed with an advanced formula to exfoliate and condition the skin to ensure an even, natural-looking tan, this is an innovative way to get your glow on. With the use of a special adhesive tape, we will make a very tiny special bikini that will give you the most perfect natural tan lines. In comparison of a regular bikini, the adhesive bikini is hand taped with perfection on your body and won't move like a regular bikini which will create the perfect straight tan lines. This is a great way to get yourself the most perfect tan that you would like to take with you as a reminder of a wonderful vacation. One session only will already give you a great result as Aruba Perfect Tan are the

pioneers on the island in Brazilian Perfect Tanning. And best of it, it lasts up to three months!

Services

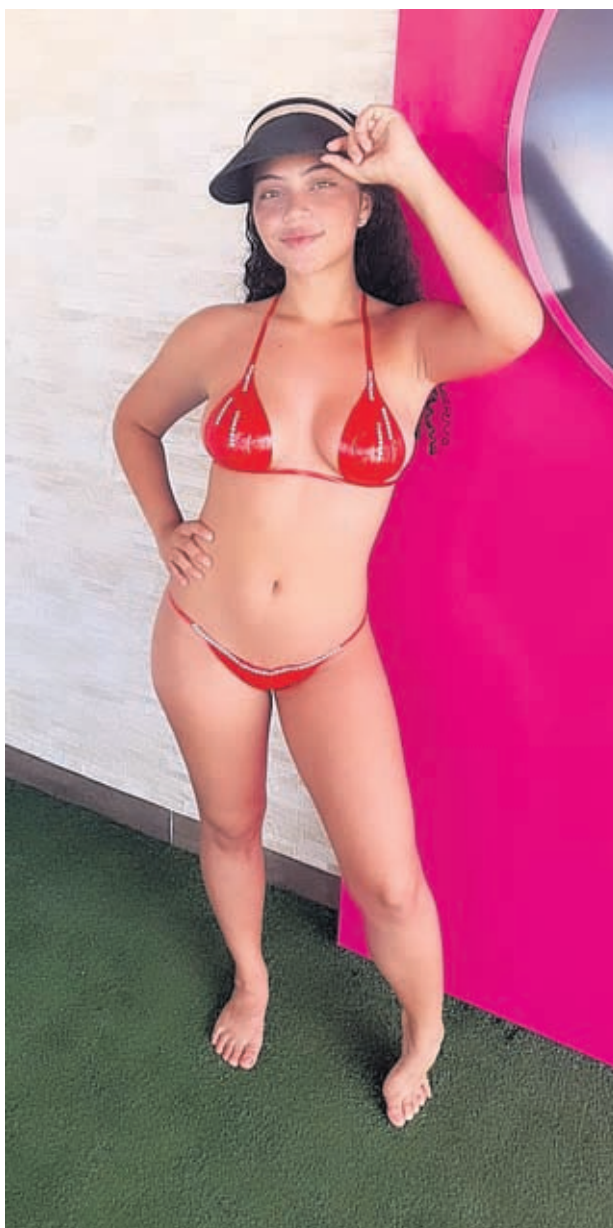
Plan your perfect escape for you and your girls to celebrate a birthday, bachelorette parties or just a girls only outing and receive a 10% discount on your Perfect Tan package. The package consists of a delicious Welcome Cocktail, a melanin activator juice, a relaxing foot massage, a gourmet wash to bleach all body hair and a refreshing bowl of fresh fruits. Hang out with the girls by the pool under the hot tropical sun with a nice cocktail, waiting service and great music to make the experience even more authentic.

Aruba Happy Lashes is also specialized in the most amazing lashes services. With a great menu of lashes services you can choose from Classic lashes, Russian volume lashes, Glamorous lashes, Gorgeous lashes, Diva lashes, Extravagant mink lashes, silk lashes, Lash lifting and so much more. But also a re-touch of your already existing lashes is possible at great prices.

While on the premises, take a look at the fabulous, colorful and comfortable sportswear. From sports to everyday outfits in a variety of styles but above all very comfortable sportswear. Perfect for daily wear as well, for its comfort, fashion and practicality.

Aruba Happy Lashes and Aruba Perfect Tan is located at Bushiri 6V in downtown Oranjestad and is open daily from 10am – 6pm. For an appointment, please call (+297) 738.8889 or send an email at arubahappylashes@gmail.com

For more information find them on Facebook and Instagram, Aruba Happy Lashes. □



Fit2fly COVID-19
Testing Center

NO APPOINTMENT NEEDED!

**NAAT molecular (PCR):
Result in 30 minutes!**

Antigen Test: \$50

PCR Test also available

**LABORATORIO
DI SERVIZIO**

MedCare Clinic
URGENT CARE

Tel: (+297) 280-0630

info@medcare.aw / www.medcare.aw

Locations: **The Cove Mall (8:00 AM - 10:00 PM)** **Medcare near Courtyard by Marriott (8:00 AM - 2:00 PM)**
Budget Car Rental near Soprano's Piano Bar (5:00 PM - 9:00 PM)

Political status in Aruba

ORANJESTAD The Governor of Aruba, His Excellency Alfonso Boekhoudt, started consultations with advisory bodies and political leaders on Monday June 28, 2021. During the consultations, the Governor was advised on the options for forming a new cabinet, in view of the results of the elections to the States.

The Governor spoke separately with the chairman of the Advisory Council, Mr Frits Goedgefrag, and the chairman of the Parliament, Mr Juan Thijsen. After that, the Governor spoke with the leaders of the political parties that have won at least one seat on the basis of the provisional election results. This concerns Mrs Evelyn Wever-Croes (MEP), Mr Mike Eman (AVP), Mr Ursell Arends (RAIZ), Ms Marisol Lopez Tromp (MAS) and Mr Miguel Mansur (Accion21). Subsequently, the Governor held consultations with the chair of the Social Economic Council, Ms Tisa LaSorte, the acting chair of the Court of Audit, Mr Frederick Nuboer, and with the Aruban member of the Board of Aruba Financial Supervision, Ms Hellen van der Wal.

Eddy Werleman and Tisa Lasorte appointed as informants

Following these discussions, the Governor appointed Mr Eddy Werleman and Mrs Tisa LaSorte as informants on Monday July 5, 2021. They have been requested to examine the possibilities for forming a stable cabinet that enjoys the confidence of the largest possible majority in Parliament. The cabinet must be able to arrive at a joint policy aimed at the financial and socio-economic recovery of Aruba, in particular the further implementation and imple-

mentation of the Aruba National Package. It is important that the cabinet gets to work on a number of urgent matters as soon as possible. If it appears that such a cabinet can be formed, the informants should then persuade the political parties involved to sign a declaration of willingness. In this document, the parties declare their willingness to form a coalition government together. Werleman and LaSorte have accepted this information assignment. The informants must report in writing to the Governor about the outcome of the assignment by July 12, 2021 at the latest.

New Aruba States members sworn in

On Thursday, July 8, 2021, the Governor of Aruba, took the oath or affirmation of the new members of the Parliament of Aruba. The ceremony took place in the Assembly Hall of the States. The composition of the Parliament consists of 21 members from 5 political parties. One Member of Parliament, Mr. Oslin Benito Sevinger, has not yet been summoned by the Governor to take the oath.

Political parties MEP and RAIZ sign declaration of willingness to form a government for 2021 – 2025

Thursday July 8, 2021. The political parties Movimiento Electoral di Pueblo (MEP) and RAIZ reached an agreement to continue negotiations on forming a coalition government. That same day, the two parties met with the informants, Werleman and LaSorte. During this meeting, they signed a declaration of willingness to negotiate and form a coalition. The leader of the MEP, Evelyn Wever-Croes indicated that

political party MEP and political party RAIZ have enough agreements to work on a base to govern Aruba for the next four years. As there is still a pandemic on the island, the two sides have largely agreed to move Aruba forward together to make it stronger and more resilient. Before a large group at El Faro lighthouse, the two sides signed another covenant, a statement in which the parties express their intention to form a new government. This statement includes the coalition agreements under which the coalition will operate in the coming period, resulting in the formation of the Wever-Croes 2 cabinet. The parties are negotiating the key points identified in the agreement to form a solid government. The topics that have priority for both parties are: Integrity; The agreements with the Netherlands; Economic recovery; Balanced public finances; Sustainable development; Social rights, care for the elderly, children and young people, putting people first.

"We believe that 11 seats are wide enough to provide the stability required to run our country," said MEP leader Evelyn Wever-Croes.

Governor appoints Evelyn Wever-Croes to form the next Government

After the informants, Werleman and LaSorte handed over the declaration of willingness on July 8 to the Governor of Aruba, Mrs. Evelyn Wever-Croes, party leader of Movimiento Electoral di Pueblo (MEP), also handed over the letter of intent to the Governor that the party leaders of MEP and RAIZ signed. The final report of the informants was also submitted to Governor. This completes the information round. In line with the final report of the informants and in view of the signed declaration of willingness and intent, Governor Boekhoudt appointed Mrs Evelyn Wever-Croes as the person to form the next government on Friday July 9. The Governor has requested her to form a stable cabinet that enjoys the confidence of the States parties of MEP and RAIZ and that consists of persons who are willing and able to arrive at a joint policy aimed at the financial and socio-economic recovery of Aruba, in particular on the further implementation and implementation of the National Package. Wever-Croes must report in writing to Governor Boekhoudt about her findings by August 9, 2021 at the latest. In the meantime, the Wever-Croes will inform the Governor orally or, if necessary, in writing about the progress in the execution of the formation assignment. The group leaders in the Parliament have been informed in writing of the formation assignment and of the fact that Wever-Croes has kept it under consideration. The group leaders have been called upon to cooperate fully in carrying out the formation assignment. □



At many companies, changes from COVID-19 are now permanent

By **JOYCE M. ROSENBERG**
AP Business Writer
NEW YORK (AP) — The

vending machine outside Pinch Spice Market dispensing packets of herbs and seasonings isn't a sales gimmick: it helped cater to customers as the company struggled through the COVID-19 pandemic.

Meaghan Thomas, co-owner of the Louisville, Kentucky, firm and her partner, Thomas McGee, never expected a stream of shoppers at their tiny factory during the pandemic. But people were cooking more at home and wanted to support local businesses. They'd show up while the owners, the only employees, were trying to fill online orders. There was little or no time to also take care of in-person customers.

"The vending machine gave them a contactless way to shop, and it also attracted new customers who happened to be walking by our factory," Thomas says.

It's now a permanent addition.

"We're definitely keeping it. In fact, we're considering making more machines to put in more locations," Thomas says.

The pandemic has changed the way many small businesses operate. Common among many industries is the shift to working from home and hybrid scheduling. And online ordering and curbside pickup are now standard at restaurants and retailers.

Many owners also have made very individual adaptations that not only make sense, but may have permanently altered the way they do business and make money. Some owners who have made dramatic changes find they're much happier running their companies now.

When Ashley Greer started her floral design business four years ago, she didn't want a retail shop. So, Atelier Ashley Flowers created arrangements only for weddings and other events.

Greer's Alexandria, Virginia, business had a full calendar when COVID-19

struck and every event on it was canceled. Greer consoled herself by designing arrangements and

celebrated weddings and may do more in the future. But she's thriving on individual arrangements and says, "I

ple," Alpert says. "It's convenient, they don't have to commute 10, 20, 30 minutes each way."

drinking at home, the couple decided to gamble on their idea being more appealing as COVID-19 radically changed lifestyles.

Creating a manufacturing operation would take months. The Los Angeles business got a \$2 million Small Business Administration loan in September to finance the equipment, and by February was producing canned cocktails that sell in grocery stores including Whole Foods companies that are largely pandemic-proof. "Supermarkets have the most latitude to serve the public and stay open," Khosrovian says.

The company's restaurant and bar business picked up again the last two months. But Khosrovian believes that long-term, the canned cocktail business will grow to the point where it accounts 80% of Greenbar's revenue.

The pandemic forced owner Mel Stutzman to shut down the showroom at Countryside Amish Furniture as it turns out, much to the benefit of the Arthur, Illinois, manufacturer.

Stutzman realized the showroom, which drew many visiting tourists but few buyers, took staffers away from working with serious shoppers online and on the phone. It took being closed and having more time for customers with questions about Stutzman's custom-made products for him to see that.

"We had to decide, who are we, where do we want to go?" Stutzman says. He closed the showroom permanently.

The decision, which came as Americans invested more in their homes, paid off. Stutzman's 2020 sales were up 65% over 2019, and he's been able to hire two people, bringing his staff to eight. He now has someone evenings and weekends helping customers with questions about wood finishes, fabric and leather.

And if someone wants to visit the showroom?

"We have to take the position that we don't go to the door," Stutzman says. □



This March 10, 2021 photo shows Meaghan Thomas, co-owner of Pinch Spice Market, with a vending machine the company installed outside its Louisville, Ky. factory to make sales easier during COVID-19.

Associated Press

posting them on Instagram, where she has 4,000 local followers.

"Slowly, my neighbors around me said, 'Hey, do you think you could make me a flower arrangement, and make it weekly?'" Greer says. She believes they wanted to support her and were looking to brighten their days.

The arrangements brought in money for Greer, who was living off savings. Then she got a surprising number of orders for Mother's Day. Her retail business took off and, Greer found, was more rewarding. Her new clients were a joy to work with compared to the sometimes demanding and often unappreciative wedding clients.

"People are so much happier when they get one flower arrangement. The brides, one in 10 will send a thank you note: it feels so much more transactional when I'm putting my heart and soul into them," she says.

Greer has rebooked can-

have no plans to go back to events only."

Business owners expect to make adjustments to their companies and how they operate. And when there's an extraordinary event, such as the Great Recession, many companies have to seek out new markets, downsize, and change their mix of products or services. But the pandemic was a situation that no one had ever experienced. It forced change upon businesses and industries that had taken their way of working for granted. Before COVID-19, psychotherapist and business coach Jonathan Alpert did almost all his work in his Manhattan office.

The pandemic restricted him to the phone and video. But despite the fact therapy has traditionally been done in person, many clients aren't interested in returning to his office for in-person sessions.

"What started out as a real necessity is now a highly desirable option for peo-

Remote sessions also give Alpert more flexibility. He finds the dynamics of remote sessions make them less intense than being one-on-one in his office, and he's less tired by the end of the day.

"It allows me to see more people," he says. That has increased his revenue.

Eighty percent of Greenbar Distillery's revenue came from bar and restaurant sales pre-pandemic, with the rest coming from liquor stores. When state and local governments restricted or shut down indoor dining, "it was like someone turned off the light switch," co-founder Melkon Khosrovian says.

Three months into the pandemic and prospects dim for a return to normal, Khosrovian and business partner and wife Litty Matthew decided to sell their products directly to consumers. They went back to an idea they had tried unsuccessfully in 2019: selling cocktails in cans in grocery stores. With Americans doing more

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS 43 Turn down

1 Improvise musically

5 Timber wolf

9 Silver or gold

10 Take on

12 Bakery come-on

13 Conductor's concern

14 Book genre

16 "— appetit!"

17 Singer DiFranco

18 Book genre

20 Add

22 Looks over

23 Stand

25 Ready for customers

28 High-collared jackets

32 Book genre

34 Heater

35 D.C. player

36 Book genre

38 Delight

40 Kind of kitchen

41 Hamper

42 "Survivor" team

DOWN

1 "Romeo and Juliet" setting

2 Like some clocks

3 Baby's call

4 Anticipate

5 Grow toward evening

6 Keats work

7 British East India Company base

8 Stand against

9 Victim of Corday

S	H	I	P			S	P	O	T		
H	I	N	T	S		T	O	U	R	S	
O	N	T	A	P			O	U	T	I	E
E	G	O		I	S	O	T	O	P	E	
S	E	T	T	L	E	D		F	O	P	
	S	H	A	L	E		M	T	N	S	
		E	N	S		D	A	H			
T	A	G	S		T	O	T	E	M		
O	R	R		B	E	L	T	W	A	Y	
G	O	O	D	A	L	L		O	D	E	
A	M	O	U	R		A	L	O	E	S	
S	A	V	E	D		R	O	D	I	N	
	S	E	T	S			A	S	T	O	

Yesterday's answer

11 Theater awards

15 "Let me give it a go"

19 Freshman, usually

21 Philosopher Immanuel

24 Romantic sights

25 Held title to

26 Rang

27 Will topic

29 Words of under-standing

30 Antilles natives

31 Songwriter Jule

33 Abrasive powder

37 Poi source

39 Decimal base

	1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	
9						10				11
12						13				
14					15			16		
17				18				19		
20			21					22		
			23			24				
25	26	27			28			29	30	31
32				33				34		
35				36				37		
38			39			40				
41						42				
	43					44				

7-10

AXYDLBAAXR
is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

7-10

CRYPTOQUOTE

I D L B K H C B Z V R P V U C E S B T

S E J L C Z W , C U L D L B K B L X R V S R

V U C Z K H L S E W L C D L R .

— Z B K S R L J N C B J U

Yesterday's Cryptoquote: IF YOU WANT TO CONQUER FEAR, DON'T SIT HOME AND THINK ABOUT IT. GO OUT AND GET BUSY. — DALE CARNEGIE



This combination of 2019 and 2016 file photos shows Jeff Bezos with a model of Blue Origin's Blue Moon lunar lander in Washington, left, and Richard Branson with Virgin Galactic's SpaceShipTwo space tourism rocket in Mojave, Calif.

Associated Press

Billionaire Blastoff: Rich riding own rockets into space

By MARCIA DUNN
AP Aerospace Writer

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla.

(AP) — Two billionaires are putting everything on the line this month to ride their own rockets into space.

It's intended to be a flashy confidence boost for customers seeking their own short joyrides.

The lucrative, high-stakes chase for space tourists will unfold on the fringes of space 55 miles to 66 miles (88 kilometers to 106 kilometers) up, pitting Virgin Galactic's Richard Branson against the world's richest man, Blue Origin's Jeff Bezos.

Branson is due to take off Sunday from New Mexico, launching with two pilots and three other employees aboard a rocket plane carried aloft by a double-fuselage aircraft.

Bezos departs nine days later from West Texas, blasting off in a fully automated capsule with three guests: his brother, an 82-year-old female aviation pioneer who's waited six decades for a shot at space and the winner of a \$28 million charity auction.

Branson's flight will be longer, but Bezos' will be higher.

Branson's craft has more windows, but Bezos' win-

dows are bigger.

Branson's piloted plane has already flown to space three times. Bezos' has five times as many test flights, though none with people on board.

Either way, they're shooting for sky-high bragging rights as the first person to fly his own rocket to space and experience three to four minutes of weightlessness. Branson, who turns 71 in another week, considers it "very important" to try it out before allowing space tourists on board. He insists he's not apprehensive; this is the thrill-seeking adventurer who's kite-surfed across the English Channel and attempted to circle the world in a hot air balloon.

"As a child, I wanted to go to space. When that did not look likely for my generation, I registered the name Virgin Galactic with the notion of creating a company that could make it happen," Branson wrote in a blog this week. Seventeen years after founding Virgin Galactic, he's on the cusp of experiencing space for himself.

"It's amazing where an idea can lead you, no matter how far-fetched it may seem at first."

Bezos, 57, who stepped

down Monday as Amazon's CEO, announced in early June that he'd be on his New Shepard rocket's first passenger flight, choosing the 52nd anniversary of Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin's moon landing.

He too had childhood dreams of traveling to space, Bezos said via Instagram. "On July 20th, I will take that journey with my brother. The greatest adventure, with my best friend."

Branson was supposed to fly later this year on the second of three more test flights planned by Virgin Galactic before flying ticket holders next year. But late last week, he leapfrogged ahead.

He insists he's not trying to beat Bezos and that it's not a race.

Yet his announcement came just hours after Bezos revealed he'd be joined in space by Wally Funk, one of the last surviving members of the so-called Mercury 13.

The 13 female pilots never made it to space despite passing the same tests in the early 1960s as NASA's original, all-male Mercury 7 astronauts.

Bezos hasn't commented publicly on Branson's upcoming flight. □

Bug experts seeking new name for destructive gypsy moths



In this July 28, 2008, file photo, a female *Lymantria dispar* moth lays her eggs on the trunk of a tree in the Salmon River State Forest in Hebron, Conn.

Associated Press

By **SETH BORENSTEIN**
AP Science Writer

Bug experts are dropping the common name of a destructive insect because it's considered an ethnic slur: the gypsy moth.

The Entomological Society of America, which oversees the common names of bugs, is getting rid of the common name of that critter and the lesser-known gypsy ant. The group this week announced that for the first time it changed a common name of an insect because it was offensive. In the past they've only reassigned names that weren't scientifically accurate.

"It's an ethnic slur to begin with that's been rejected by the Romani people a long time ago," said society president Michelle S. Smith. "Second, nobody wants to be associated with a harmful invasive pest."

The society is taking a hard look at some of the more than 2,000 common insect names to remove derogatory and geographically inaccurate ones. About 20 years ago, a committee of fish experts renamed the jewfish into the goliath grouper.

The moths are invasive and destructive critters in the caterpillar stage. They

have a voracious appetite that can denude entire forests of leaves, said University of Illinois entomologist May Berenbaum, a past society president.

The moths likely got their name because as larvae they have hair with small air pockets that act like balloons allowing them to float for miles, wandering like the group of people they were named after, Berenbaum said. Another theory is that male adult moths have a tan color that could be similar to Romani people.

The Entomological Society is now on the hunt for a

new common name, a process that will take months, Smith said. Until then, even though it's a mouthful, Smith said the moths should be called by their scientific name, *Lymantria dispar* or *L. dispar*.

Berenbaum who has written about weirdly named plants, animals and gene mutations said given the moths' destructiveness, she and other would have some ideas for a descriptive new name.

"You're not allowed to use obscenities," she said, "so that's out." □



Editor
Caribbean Speed Printers N.V.
Aruba Bank N.V. Acc. #332668
Caribbean Mercantile Bank N.V.
Acc. #23951903
RBC Royal Bank Acc. #1330772

Assistant Director

Xiomara Arends

Editors

Liza Koolman (Management assistant)

Richard Brooks

Linda Reijnders

Sales

Linda Reijnders

(linda.reijnders@cspnv.com)

Sulaika Croes

Classifieds

classified@cspnv.com

Distribution and Collection

accounting@bondia.com

Social / Website

Juan Luis Pinto

Pilar Flores

Columnists

Anthony Croes

Joris Zantvoort

Thais Franken

Weststraat 22

T: 582-7800

E: news@arubatoday.com

W: www.arubatoday.com

f @arubatoday

**ARUBA
CLEAN**



**IS MORE
DUSHI**



HEALTH

DOCTOR ON DUTY

Oranjestad

Hospital 7:00 pm / 10:00pm
Tel. 527 4000

San Nicolas

Imsan 24 hours
Tel. 524 8833

PHARMACY ON DUTY

Oranjestad:

Del Pueblo Tel. 588 7364

San Nicolas:

Aloe Tel. 584 4606

OTHER

Dental Clinic 587 9850

Blood Bank Aruba 587 0002

Urgent Care 586 0448

Walk-In Doctor's Clinic

+297 588 0539

EMERGENCY

Police	100
Oranjestad	527 3140
Noord	527 3200
Sta. Cruz	527 2900
San Nicolas	584 5000
Police Tipline	11141
Ambulancia	911
Fire Dept.	115
Red Cross	582 2219

TAXI SERVICES

Taxi Tas	587 5900
Prof. Taxi	588 0035
Taxi D.T.S.	587 2300
Taxi Serv. Aruba	583 3232
A1 Taxi Serv.	280 2828

TRAVEL INFO

Aruba Airport	524 2424
American Airlines	582 2700
Avianca	588 0059
Jet Blue	588 2244
Surinam	582 7896

AID FOUNDATIONS

FAVI- Visually Impaired
Tel. 582 5051

Alcoholics Anonymous
Tel. 736 2952

Narcotics Anonymous
Tel. 583 8989

Fundacion Contra Violencia
Relacional Tel. 583 5400

Centre for Diabetes
Tel. 524 8888

Child Abuse Prevention
Tel. 582 4433

Quota Club Tel. 525 2672

General Info

Phone Directory Tel. 118

Like
us on
Facebook

facebook.com/arubatoday/

Monsters mess with New Zealand in 'Wellington Paranormal'

By ANDREW DALTON

AP Entertainment Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Americans will soon learn there are more creatures in New Zealand than just hobbits. Thanks to the expanding cinematic universe of Jeanine Clement and Taika Waititi, the list now includes vampires, werewolves, zombies, disco-era ghosts and projectile-vomiting demons.

The "Flight of the Conchords" star Clement and the "Thor: Ragnarok" director Waititi co-wrote, co-directed and co-starred in the 2014 film about a group of New Zealand vampire housemates, "What We Do in the Shadows," and co-created the U.S. TV series of the same name on FX.

Now, they're bringing their New Zealand TV show, "Wellington Paranormal," to the U.S. with a premiere on The CW on Sunday.

A comic mockumentary with echoes of "Cops" and "The X-Files," "Wellington Paranormal" follows a pair of uniformed police officers, played by Mike Minogue and Karen O'Leary, in the title city as they investigate monstrous happenings with bureaucratic banality.

"The way that the characters react to things are quite



This image released by The CW shows Mike Minogue, Maaka Pohatu and Karen O'Leary from the comedy series "Wellington Paranormal," premiering July 11.

Associated Press

New Zealand, the way that people either are understated or they don't know what to do," Clement said with a laugh in an interview with The Associated Press via Zoom from Wellington. The show is a spinoff of the "What We Do in the Shadows" film, with Minogue and O'Leary reprising their roles.

But unlike the New York-set "Shadows" TV series, which was made for an American audience, U.S. viewers will

see the same episodes that first aired in 2018 in New Zealand, where the show's third season just aired and the fourth is in production. Clement isn't worried about the jokes getting lost between hemispheres. "We try to cram it with jokes so that you won't really notice if you don't get a specific cultural reference," he said.

A more significant difference may be the countries' police cultures, and

the prevailing attitudes around them.

"I know that this comes at an odd time for America and the image of police in America," Clement said. "There's a different feeling around the police here. There's some crossover and some of the same issues, but because they don't carry guns, there is not the fear of the police."

And some of the jokes might play a little differently in 2021 after major U.S.

protests of police violence than they did in 2018 when the first season of "Wellington Paranormal" was made.

In one episode, Minogue has blood all over his police uniform after trying to empty a pint into an evidence bag.

"I didn't brutalize anybody!" he feels the need to tell the people who see him.

"There's a few jokes like that that we did three years ago that I wonder if we could make today, because it's changed so quickly," Clement said.

"I hope people still find that funny, but it feels more probably on the nose than it was at the time." It was an easy call for Clement and Waititi to give these characters their own show, and to have O'Leary and Minogue play them, though both were basically beginners when they appeared in "What We Do in the Shadows." Their gifts for comedy, and for the improv that "Wellington Paranormal" relies on, were clear.

"We just put them together and instantly they had a chemistry like a great comedy duo, and we were just lucky," Clement said. □

Marilyn Manson surrenders on New Hampshire assault warrant

By STEFANIE DAZIO

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Rocker Marilyn Manson surrendered to police in Los Angeles last week in connection with a 2019 arrest warrant out of New Hampshire where he allegedly assaulted a videographer at a concert, authorities said. Manson, whose legal name is Brian Hugh Warner, is charged with two misdemeanor counts of simple assault stemming from an alleged incident on Aug. 19, 2019 at the Bank of New Hampshire Pavilion in Gilford. Gilford police Chief Anthony J. Bean Burpee said Thursday that Manson had turned himself into law enforcement in Los Angeles the week before.

Manson was booked and released without bail pending a court appearance in New Hampshire.

Manson's attorney did not immediately respond to re-

quests for comment Friday. The victim, a videographer, was in the venue's stage pit area at the time of the alleged assault, Gilford police previously said.



In this Dec. 10, 2019, file photo, Marilyn Manson attends the 9th annual "Home for the Holidays" benefit concert in Los Angeles.

Associated Press

The misdemeanor charges can each result in a jail sentence of less than a year and a \$2,000 fine if convicted. Los Angeles Police Capt. Brent McGuyre confirmed Manson's surrender to The Associated Press. Manson turned himself in at the department's Hollywood station on July 2 and was processed on the warrant before being released. "This is consistent with anybody who has a misdemeanor warrant that is not local," McGuyre said.

Manson also has faced abuse accusations unrelated to the New Hampshire incident in recent years. He has denied wrongdoing. In February, actor Evan Rachel Wood publicly accused Manson, her ex-fi-

ancé, of sexual and other physical abuse, alleging she was "manipulated into submission" during their relationship.

Months later, "Game of Thrones" actor Esmé Bianco sued Manson in federal court in Los Angeles, alleging sexual, physical and emotional abuse. The AP generally does not identify people who say they have been sexually assaulted, but Bianco and Wood have spoken publicly. In 2018, Los Angeles County prosecutors declined to file charges against Manson over allegations of assault, battery and sexual assault dating to 2011, saying they were limited by statutes of limitations and a lack of corroboration. □

Cavendish equals Merckx's record of 34 Tour stage wins

CARCASSONNE, France (AP) — Thirteen years after his maiden stage win at the Tour de France, Mark Cavendish added yet another mass sprint to his tally and equaled Eddy Merckx's all-time record of 34 stage wins on Friday.

Merckx amassed his wins in the 1960s and 70s, an era during which his domination was so outrageous that he earned the nickname of "The Cannibal."

Unlike Merckx who did it a record five times Cavendish has never won the Tour. Cavendish's abilities are more limited, but his speed prowess and longevity among his fellow sprinters have no equal at the Tour. Particularly this summer, in the absence of teammate Sam Bennett, whom he replaced at the last minute and after Caleb Ewan crashed out early in the race.

Taking part in cycling's biggest race for the first time since 2018, the 36-year-old former world champion posted his fourth stage win in the southern city of Carcassonne, at the end of a long and hot day on the bike.

"I haven't realized it," he said when asked about the record, "It's still just another



Britain's Mark Cavendish, wearing the best sprinter's green jersey, celebrates as he crosses the finish line to win the thirteenth stage of the Tour de France cycling race over 219.9 kilometers (136.6 miles) with start in Nîmes and finish in Carcassonne, France, Friday, July 9, 2021.

Associated Press

win on the Tour de France. It's like my first one. I've won a stage of the Tour de France. It's what I dreamed of as a kid and it's what I dream of now. I've worked so hard for it."

Cavendish's latest achievements are even more remarkable for coming after a long period of doubts. Just a few months ago, he was even contemplating retirement.

But Cavendish secured a new contract with his former Deceuninck Quick Step team for this year after returning from a bout of depression and several seasons of struggles on and off the bike. He was not expected to ride in the Tour and was a late call-up last month as a replacement for Bennett, the best sprinter of last year's Tour.

Having survived the Alpine

stages in terrible weather conditions, Cavendish will have two more opportunities in flat stages to beat Merckx's record if he goes across the Pyrenees without trouble. And if he manages to reach the finish line in Paris on July 18, the best sprinter's green jersey he currently dons will be another target. He has completed the Tour in half of his 12 entries.

Known as "The Manx Missile" as he comes from the Isle of Man, Cavendish jostled for position in the last two kilometers to stay on the wheel of lead-out man Michael Morkov. He looked trapped in traffic with 300 meters left but zigzagged to the front and comfortably won ahead of Morkov. Jasper Philipsen was third.

"I went deep, I went so deep there," he said. "The boys were incredible. I can't believe it. A lot of the day it didn't feel like it, but it had to happen because I had the guys riding like they were. I was so on the limit there."

There was no significant change in the general classification as race leader Tadej Pogacar enjoyed a quiet day in the peloton. Pogacar kept his 5:18 lead over second-placed Rigoberto Uran, with Jonas Vingegaard in third, 5:33 off the pace.

The race animated immediately with a flurry of attacks in the early stages of the 220-kilometer trek in southern France. But Cavendish's teammates set a fast tempo at the front to prevent large group of riders from breaking away, determined to ensure a mass sprint in the end. □

Source: Fury positive for COVID, 3rd Wilder bout postponed

By GREG BEACHAM

AP Sports Writer

LAS VEGAS (AP) — A person with knowledge of the situation says heavyweight champion Tyson Fury has tested positive for COVID-19, and his third bout with Deontay Wilder will be postponed likely until the fall.

The person spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity Thursday because the promoters of the lucrative heavyweight trilogy are still finalizing the new date for the most anticipated heavyweight bout of the summer.

Fury (30-0-1, 21 KOs) and Wilder (42-1-1, 41 KOs) were scheduled to meet July 24 at T-Mobile Arena in Las

Vegas to complete their series of entertaining fights. Fury, the English champion considered the pound-for-pound best heavyweight

in the world, tested positive along with several members of his camp. He was already in the U.S. to complete his final preparations

for the bout, but is likely to return home to regroup.

The combat sports calendar is crowded for much of August and September, meaning Fury-Wilder III is likely to happen in October. Fury and Wilder fought to a thrilling draw in Los Angeles in December 2018. Although Fury largely outboxed his powerful American challenger, Wilder knocked down Fury twice to split the scorecards.

Fury then trounced Wilder in their rematch in Vegas in February 2020, knocking down Wilder twice and finally forcing Wilder's corner to stop the bout.

Wilder exercised the rematch clause in his contract even after Fury's em-

phatic victory, and after an arbitration judge ruled in Wilder's favor, Fury resignedly agreed to the matchup instead of a much-anticipated unification showdown with fellow British champion Anthony Joshua.

Although he demanded the bout, Wilder has been acting erratically in the months leading up to it. Along with changing trainers, Wilder has made a variety of wild accusations against nearly everyone involved in his first career defeat and when the promoters held a news conference for the trilogy fight in Los Angeles last month, Wilder inexplicably refused to speak at it. □



In this Feb. 22, 2020, file photo, Tyson Fury, right, of England, lands a right to Deontay Wilder during a WBC heavyweight championship boxing match in Las Vegas.

Associated Press

Back in Wimbledon final, Djokovic to face Italy's Berrettini

By **HOWARD FENDRICH**
AP Tennis Writer
WIMBLEDON, England (AP)

— The victories keep adding up for Novak Djokovic: 20 in a row at Wimbledon since the start of the 2018 tournament, 20 in a row in all Grand Slam matches since the start of this season.

Make both of those streaks reach 21 on Sunday, and Djokovic will accomplish something he's been chasing for years: He would tie his rivals Roger Federer and Rafael Nadal with a 20th major championship, the most by a man in tennis history.

The top-seeded Djokovic worked his way in and out of trouble against a much younger, much-less-experienced opponent Friday until eliminating No. 10 Denis Shapovalov 7-6 (3), 7-5, 7-5 to reach the final at the All England Club.

"At this stage of my career, Grand Slams are everything, really. They are the four events that count the most in our sport. I've been very privileged to make history of a sport that I truly love. It fills my heart every time that I hear there is something on the line that is historic. Obviously it inspires me, it motivates me," said Djokovic, a 34-year-old from Serbia. "But at the same time, I have to balance it with trying to be present and in the moment and win only the next match."

Each set of his semifinal was tight and intense. Each appeared to be within Shapovalov's grasp until it was in Djokovic's.

"I don't think that the scoreline says enough about the performance and about the match," said Djokovic, who saved 5 of 5 break points in the second set, then 3 of 3 in the third.

Talking about Shapovalov, a 22-year-old from Canada, Djokovic told the capacity crowd at Centre Court: "We're going to see a lot of him in the future, definitely."

Djokovic is most definitely dominating the sport's present.

If he can beat another

new-to-these-stages foe, No. 7 seed Matteo Berrettini of Italy, in Sunday's final,

the No. 7-seeded Berrettini used an 11-game run to grab a big lead and then

from the guy coming off the biggest wins of his career against his idol, eight-

phone Berrettini was two points from winning in the third set.

But Hurkacz extended the contest, before Berrettini asserted himself again.

Shapovalov kept pushing Djokovic to the brink, but couldn't quite get the job done.

Djokovic dropped his opening set this fortnight to British teen Jack Draper and has won all 18 since.

Djokovic's 6-0 record head-to-head entering Friday did not portend a fair fight. But Shapovalov is a lefty with a vibrant, sometimes violent, swing, including when it comes to his one-handed backhand. There's hardly a hint of subtlety, nary a trace of playing it safe.

That backhand forced a Djokovic error to conclude a 15-stroke exchange that provided Shapovalov with a break and a 2-1 edge. He stretched that to 5-3 and was two points from taking the set in the next game, but couldn't get closer.

Serving for the set at 5-4, Shapovalov faltered for the first time pushed by Djokovic's indefatigable defense. Djokovic broke, then was better in the tiebreaker. Not perfect, but better.

Mostly playing it safe and letting Shapovalov err worked just fine. Shapovalov double-faulted to end that set. He did so again to get broken to trail 6-5 in the second. And again in the game that left him behind 6-5 in the third. By then, Djokovic was punching the air and shouting, knowing the match's end, and another final, was near. □



Serbia's Novak Djokovic celebrates after defeating Canada's Denis Shapovalov during the men's singles semifinals match on day eleven of the Wimbledon Tennis Championships in London, Friday, July 9, 2021.

Associated Press

Djokovic will collect a sixth championship at Wimbledon his third straight.

And then there's this: He already won the Australian Open in February and the French Open in June, so a Wimbledon triumph would put him three-quarters of the way to a calendar-year Grand Slam, with only the U.S. Open remaining. No man has pulled that off since Rod Laver in 1969.

First things first. This will be Djokovic's 30th major final, Berrettini's first. Much as it was Djokovic's 41st major semifinal, Shapovalov's first. Cries of "Vai!" (Go!), "Forza!" (Let's go!) and even "Andiamo, amore mio!" (Let's go, my love!) rang through the All England Club's main stadium earlier, supporting Berrettini in his native tongue on his way to becoming Italy's first Grand Slam male finalist in 45 years.

With booming serves delivering 22 aces, and powerful forehands helping compile a total of 60 winners,

held on to beat No. 14 Hubert Hurkacz 6-3, 6-0, 6-7 (3), 6-4 in the first semifinal. "Obviously, the job is not done yet. I want to get the trophy now that I'm here," said the 25-year-old Berrettini, who lost his only previous Slam semifinal, at the 2019 U.S. Open. "But, just, it's a really unbelievable feeling."

He's now on an 11-match winning streak on grass courts, including a title at the Queen's Club tuneup last month, when he became the first man since Boris Becker in 1985 to win the trophy in his debut at that event. Becker went on to triumph at Wimbledon that year.

A key moment in the semifinal, oddly enough, came less than 20 minutes in, when Hurkacz was ahead 3-2 and held a break point. That was erased by Berrettini no surprise thanks to a service winner at 130 mph, punctuated by one of his many yells of "Si!" From there, Hurkacz morphed

time Wimbledon champion Federer, and No. 2 Daniil Medvedev back to the player who arrived in England on a six-match losing streak.

Berrettini (almost) couldn't miss. Hurkacz (almost) couldn't connect.

By the finish, Berrettini had 24 winners off his forehand alone, and merely 18 unforced errors. Hurkacz's totals? Just 27 winners four on forehands and 26 unforced errors.

When Hurkacz got broken for the first time, the 24-year-old from Poland sat for the ensuing change-over and, between bites of a banana, motioned to his American coach, Craig Boynton, to adjust the seating arrangements in their guest box.

As if that were the issue. Cheered from the stands by his girlfriend, Ajla Tomljanovic, who made it to the quarterfinals this week, and his parents and brother mom captured his on-court interview with her cell-

**ARUBA
CLEAN**



**IS MORE
DUSHI**